

# Senator Harkin: A Visionary and Champion for Trails

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*"A community with sidewalks and bike paths encourages people to get outside and live more active lives. We can do more to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, and make it easier for Americans to walk or use bicycles for work, errands, exercise and enjoyment. This initiative will not only create safer streets but it will also promote healthier lifestyles, encourage interaction in neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for communities across the nation."*

**– Senator Tom Harkin**

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Throughout his career, Senator Tom Harkin has championed health and wellness as well as alternatives to fossil fuels, energy conservation, and land stewardship. All of these goals have helped Iowa be a national leader in trail development. Building on his efforts to promote easily accessible wellness initiatives in local communities, Harkin has secured significant nature and trail projects throughout Iowa; helping Iowa to become one of the most trail friendly states in the country with over 1,400 miles of interconnected multi-use trails. **Among the highlights of Harkin's work to invest in land and trail projects across Iowa:**

## **The Complete Streets Act:**

- Introduced the [Complete Streets Act](#), legislation aimed at improving roadways to make them safer and to encourage Americans to walk or bike to their destinations.
- The bill encourages federal, state, and regional agencies that receive federal transportation funding to fully consider incorporating pedestrian and bicycle safety measures when building or modernizing roads.
- The legislation builds on the successful efforts of many jurisdictions and localities in Iowa, including Cedar Falls, Des Moines, Johnson County and the Quad Cities region. These initiatives have successfully increased the social and economic benefits of alternative transportation options.

## **Expanding access to nature trails and wellness opportunities for Iowans:**

- Helped to successfully pass legislation that created an interpretive trails center near Council Bluffs in 1989.
- Supported the revival of the Des Moines River Greenbelt Project by securing \$24.69 million since 2002.
- Secured \$5.52 million in investments for the Central Iowa Trail Loop series of trails in the Des Moines area.
- Initiated *Harkin Wellness Grants* to promote healthier lifestyles by giving communities the opportunity to develop creative approaches to promote disease prevention and wellness.

## **Improving and preserving trails to connect Iowa's communities through federal funding:**

- \$3.672 million to reconstruct the Neal Smith Trail in Polk County.
- \$650,000 for the Carlisle Trail to Des Moines.
- \$3 million for recreational trails along the Highway 58 intersection in Cedar Falls.
- \$1.25 million for the Clear Creek Greenway in Johnson County – including \$450,000 for the American Discovery Trail connection to Clear Creek.
- \$2.3 million for the building of the Wapsi-Great Western Trail in Mitchell and Howard Counties.
- \$335,000 for the CEMAR trail from Cedar Rapids to Marion.
- \$350,000 for neighborhood rehabilitation in Marion by converting an abandoned trail line into a pedestrian trail.
- \$380,000 for the Whiterock Conservancy trails in Carroll and Guthrie counties.

## **Implementing Harkin Community Wellness Grants to help communities fund local trails:**

- \$29,000 for the Grinnell Area Recreational Trail.
- \$38,000 for walking trails at Lake Icaria in Adams County.
- \$34,000 for walking facilities in Dexter.
- \$54,000 to upgrade the Jefferson County Loop Trail.

For more information, please visit Senator Harkin's website at <http://harkin.senate.gov/>, or follow him on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tomharkin> or Twitter <https://twitter.com/SenatorHarkin>.